

## HIGH-TEMPERATURE HYPERSONIC LAVAL NOZZLE FOR NON-LTE CAVITY RINGDOWN SPECTROSCOPY

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The SMAUG apparatus (Spectroscopy of Molecules Accelerated in Uniform Gas flows) was developed to produce non-LTE spectra of various molecules of interest for hot astrophysical atmospheres, like the one surrounding hot Jupiters, reaching up to 2500K. High-temperature IR spectroscopic data is needed to retrieve temperature and concentration profiles from astronomical spectra. This work is done in the frame of the e-PYTHEAS project that focuses on high-temperature spectroscopy of small hydrocarbons. A small dimension Laval nozzle connected to a compact high enthalpy source equipped with cavity ringdown spectroscopy (CRDS) is used to produce vibrationally hot and rotationally cold high-resolution IR spectra of polyatomic molecules in the  $1.67\ \mu\text{m}$  region.<sup>a</sup> The nozzle was designed to operate with argon heated up to 2000 K and to produce a quasi-unidirectional flow to reduce the Doppler Effect responsible for line broadening. This novel approach was applied to carbon monoxide and methane. Vibrational ( $T_{vib}$ ) and rotational ( $T_{rot}$ ) temperatures were extracted from the recorded infrared spectrum leading to  $T_{vib} = 1346 \pm 52\ \text{K}$  and  $T_{rot} = 12 \pm 1\ \text{K}$  for CO. A rotational temperature of  $30 \pm 3\ \text{K}$  was measured for CH<sub>4</sub>, while two vibrational temperatures were necessary to reproduce the observed intensities. The population distribution between vibrational polyads was correctly described with  $T_{vib,I} = 894 \pm 47\ \text{K}$ , while the population distribution within a given polyad (namely the dyad or the pentad) was modelled correctly by  $T_{vib,II} = 54 \pm 4\ \text{K}$ , testifying to a more rapid intra-polyad vibrational relaxation.

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<sup>a</sup>E.Dudás *et al.* J. Chem. Phys. submitted (2020)